



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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ATHYSANUS PUSILLUS **SANDWEED**

Sandweed is an annual with slender stems, up to 15 cm tall, that are simple or sparingly branched from near the base. The alternate, lance-shaped leaves, 6-20 mm long, have toothed margins and are stalked below but sessile above. Foliage is covered with simple and branched hairs. Miniscule white flowers are born on short, spreading stalks in open, unbranched inflorescences at the ends of the stems. The four white petals are ca. 2 mm long, and the sepals are only 1 mm long. The broadly pear-shaped fruits are 2-3 mm long, covered with hooked hairs and borne on reflexed stalks. Flowering in April-May.

The annual habit and drooping, pear-shaped fruits covered with hooked hairs make this species distinctive.